



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Education, House Committee on Higher Education,
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
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HB 2076: RELATING TO RESEARCH

Chairs Takumi, Chang, Rhoads, Vice Chairs and members of the House Committees on Education, Higher Education, and Labor and Public Employment:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 2076 that requires the sharing of data across state agencies to support research that improves education and workforce outcomes and meets the longitudinal data requirements of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

As one of the leading partners of Hawai'i P-20, the University of Hawai'i has been a supporter of longitudinal data system development since its inception. As part of this process and in response to ARRA requirements, in October 2009 UH President MRC Greenwood signed a Memorandum of Understanding that was also signed by the Superintendent of the Hawai'i Department of Education and the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The purpose of the MOU was to establish a partnership to enable the sharing of data. The partners agreed to establish a data governance and access committee to determine protocols around research that would inform educational and workforce outcomes and policies.

HB 2076 establishes in statute many of the terms of the MOU, and the University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of the bill to support interagency data sharing and governance. By mid-2010 the outcome of the state's application for ARRA funding for a longitudinal data base system would be known, and ARRA funding would make a significant difference in the state's planning and implementation. The UH therefore respectfully recommends that before statutory changes are proposed, the data governance committee established by the MOU be allowed time to meet and evaluate its resources and plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.